

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

B2
11. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the one or more cationic antimicrobial substances are selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

Please add new claims 14-21.

14. (New) A device for delivery of a therapeutic agent to an animal comprising:

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- (a) a rawhide chew having a negatively charged surface; and
 - (b) an effective antimicrobial dose of one or more cationic antimicrobial substances in a saliva soluble form positioned close to or at the surface of the rawhide chew, and an alkali metal salt positioned close to or at the surface of the rawhide chew and in an amount effective to promote solubility of the cationic antimicrobial substance in the saliva.

15. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

16. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the one or more cationic antimicrobial substances are selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

17. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the cationic antimicrobial substance is chlorhexidine digluconate and the alkali metal salt is sodium gluconate.

18. (New) A method for providing dental health in an animal comprising:

(a) obtaining an animal oral care composition including one or more cationic antimicrobial substances in an antimicrobial effective amount and an alkali metal salt in an amount effective to promote solubility of the cationic antimicrobial substance in saliva; and

(b) administering the composition to the animal on a rawhide chew that will be voluntarily chewed by the animal.

19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the alkali metal salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

20. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein the one or more cationic antimicrobial substances are selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein the cationic antimicrobial substance is chlorhexidine digluconate and the alkali metal salt is sodium gluconate.